

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01709 291443Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----022345 300252Z /14

R 291330Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7331
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1709

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: UN MOPS LE
SUBJ: UNIFIL ACTIVITIES

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON MARCH 28, WELL-PLACED RELIABLE U.N. SOURCE SAID THE FOLLOWING:
2. SIILASVUO ON MARCH 25 HAD ASKED BOUTROS TO SEND ONE LEBANESE ARMY OFFICER TO NAKOURA FOR LIAISON WITH ISRAELIS AND U.N. THERE. LEBANESE HAD STILL NOT SENT ANYONE, HOWEVER. ISRAELIS HAVE HAD 20-25 PEOPLE AND U.N. OVER 30 PEOPLE AT NAKOURA FOR FOUR TO FIVE DAYS.
3. ISRAELI ARMY COMMANDER GUR HAD SAID HE WANTS TO BEGIN HIGH-LEVEL TALKS AT MINISTERIAL OR ARMY COMMANDER LEVEL WITH LEBANESE TO DISCUSS DEPLOYMENT OF LEBANESE

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ARMY IN SOUTH LEBANON AND RETURN OF REFUGEES.

4. UNMOS HAD BEEN REPORTING THAT CHRISTIANS IN MARJAYUN AREA WOULD BE EVEN TOUGHER TO DEAL WITH THAN PALESTINIANS. SA'D HADDAD HAD BEEN TAKING A VERY TOUGH ATTITUDE AND REPEATING ISRAELI LINE THAT UNIFIL MUST BE DEPLOYED TO NABATIYAH, CHATEAU BEAUFORT AND

OTHER AREAS WHERE THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL PALESTINIAN PRESENCE. ISRAEL HAD WARNED THAT BECAUSE OF HADDAD'S ATTITUDE UNIFIL WOULD HAVE TO GO SLOW IN SENDING TROOPS TO MARJAYUN.

5. THE FOLLOWING TROOPS ATTACHED TO UNIFIL WERE NOW IN LEBANON:

196 IRANIANS
261 SWEDES
506 FRENCH
59 NORWEGIANS
19 CANADIANS
46 OFFICERS FROM ILMAC
19 OFFICERS FROM UN OFFICE IN JERUSALEM

6. ADDITIONAL FRENCH FORCES, WHICH WOULD BRING TOTAL FRENCH STRENGTH TO 750, WERE EXPECTED IN LEBANON WITHIN ONE WEEK. SENAGALESE AND BOLIVIANS WERE ALSO EXPECTED TO SEND CONTINGENTS, PERHAPS BY APRIL 20. IF THE BOLIVIANS DID NOT COME, THE IRISH MIGHT SEND TROOPS INSTEAD. ALTHOUGH THE FRENCH WERE PROBABLY PREPARED TO REMAIN EVEN IF THEY TOOK SOME CASUALTIES, OTHER UNITS, PARTICULARLY THE SWEDES, WERE NOT.

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7. UNIFIL HAD PREPARED A DEPLOYMENT PLAN WHICH CALLED FOR UNIFIL TO PATROL A BELT ABOUT THREE KILOMETERS ALONG THE SOUTH BANK OF THE LITANI. THE FRENCH WERE TO MAN THE WESTERN SECTOR, THE IRANIANS THE CENTRAL SECTOR, AND THE NORWEGIANS THE EASTERN SECTOR. THE SWEDES WOULD CONDUCT MOBIL PATROLS SOUTH OF THIS BELT. NONE OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED, HOWEVER, HAD YET AGREED TO UNIFIL'S PLAN.
PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT01709
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780137-0492
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780316/aaaaamra.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7626febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3175569
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNIFIL ACTIVITIES
TAGS: MOPS, MARR, LE, UN, UNIFIL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7626febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014